

In the Claims:

Please cancel Claims 5-26 and 28-33, without prejudice; amend Claims 1 and 4; and add new Claims 34-39 as indicated below. The status of all pending claims is as follows:

1. (Currently Amended) An illumination device comprising:

a plurality of optical waveguides each including a plurality of separate light diffusion reflecting layers thereon for diffusing and reflecting guided light, a light emission surface for emitting the diffused and reflected light, and a plurality of light-emitting areas each corresponding to a location in which one of the light diffusion reflecting layers is formed and which light emitting areas are separated from each other, the plurality of optical waveguides being stacked so that the plurality of light-emitting areas are disposed almost complementarily and adjacent each other when viewed in a direction perpendicular to the light emission surface; and

a plurality of light sources respectively disposed at ends of each of the plurality of optical waveguides.

2. (Currently Amended) An illumination device according to claim

1, wherein the light diffusion reflection layers are disposed not to overlap with each other between the plurality of optical waveguides when viewed in the direction perpendicular to the light emission surface.

3. (Currently Amended) An illumination device according to claim 1, wherein the light diffusion reflection layers are disposed to partially overlap with each other between the plurality of optical waveguides when viewed in the direction perpendicular to the light emission surface.

4. (Currently Amended) An illumination device according to claim 1, further comprising a light source control system for sequentially intermittently turning on the plurality of light sources one at a time at a relatively high flashing frequency.

5-26. (Cancelled)

27. (Original) A display apparatus comprising a display panel including a display area and an illumination device for illuminating the display area, wherein the illumination device is the illumination device according to claim 1.

28-33. (Cancelled)

34. (New) An illumination device according to claim 1, where said plurality of light sources each comprise a cold-cathode tube.

35. (New) A display apparatus according to claim 27, further comprising:  
a first substrate disposed above the illumination device;  
an opposite substrate disposed opposite the first substrate;  
a color filter formed on the opposite substrate; and  
a liquid crystal sealed between said first substrate and the opposite substrate.

36. (New) An illumination device comprising:  
a plurality of optical waveguides each including a plurality of separate light diffusion reflecting surfaces for diffusing and reflecting guided light, a light emission surface for emitting the diffused and reflected light, and a plurality of light-emitting areas each corresponding to a location in which one of the light diffusion reflecting surfaces is formed and which light emitting areas are separated from each other, the plurality of optical waveguides being stacked so that the plurality of light-emitting areas are disposed almost complementarily and adjacent each other when viewed in a direction perpendicular to the light emission surface;

a plurality of light sources respectively disposed at ends of the plurality of optical waveguides; and

a light source control system for sequentially intermittently turning on the plurality of light sources one at a time at a relatively high flashing frequency.

37. (New) A display apparatus comprising:

a display panel including a display area;

an illumination device for illuminating the display area;

a first substrate disposed above the illumination device;

an opposite substrate disposed opposite the first substrate;

a color filter formed on the opposite substrate; and

a liquid crystal sealed between said first substrate and the opposite substrate,

wherein said illumination device includes:

a plurality of optical waveguides each including a plurality of separate light diffusion reflecting surfaces for diffusing and reflecting guided light, a light emission surface for emitting the diffused and reflected light, and a plurality of light-emitting areas each corresponding to a location in which one of the light diffusion reflecting surfaces is formed and which light emitting areas are separated from each other, the plurality of optical waveguides being stacked so that the plurality of light-emitting areas are disposed almost complementarily and adjacent each other when viewed in a direction perpendicular to the light emission surface;

a plurality of light sources respectively disposed at ends of the plurality of optical waveguides.

38. (New) An illumination device according to claim 36, where said plurality of light sources each comprise a cold-cathode tube.

39. (New) A display apparatus according to claim 37, where said plurality of light sources each comprise a cold-cathode tube.